IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE DIVISION

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:22-CV-00052-KDB

DESTINY WATKINS,

Plaintiff,

v. <u>ORDER</u>

KILOLO KIJAKAZI, Acting Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

THIS MATTER IS BEFORE THE COURT on the Plaintiff's Consent Motion for Fees Pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A). (Doc. No. 19). Having reviewed the filing, the Court will grant the Motion.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Plaintiff's Motion is GRANTED and the Court awards fees in the amount of \$7,800.00. Pursuant to *Comm'r of Soc. Sec. v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. --, 130 S. Ct. 2521 (2010), the fee award will first be subject to offset of any debt Plaintiff may owe to the United States. The Commissioner will determine whether Plaintiff owes a debt to the United States. If so, the debt will be satisfied first, and if any funds remain, they will be made payable to Plaintiff and mailed to Plaintiff's counsel. If the United States Department of the Treasury reports to the Commissioner that the Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, the government will exercise its discretion and honor an assignment of EAJA fees and pay the awarded fees directly to Plaintiff's counsel. No additional petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) shall be filed.

SO ORDERED.

Signed: January 24, 2023

Kenneth D. Bell

United States District Judge